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SBA 2005 REGION VII FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION GOES TO DANNA MC KITRICK

ST. LOUIS – Joe Soraghan is an attorney and works primarily in the securities law and small business finance areas. While he is a very capable attorney and has assisted numerous small businesses over the years, he has volunteered for 20 years for organizations such as the Missouri Venture Forum, St. Louis Bar Association, Regional Chamber and Growth Association, Washington University Law School and Kirkwood Planning and Zoning Commission.

In 2001, when MVF was looking at the role it was playing in the community and how it was helping area businesses, Joe suggested to the board that a committee be set up to explore options. The result has been the six very successful “Entrepreneur and Money—Getting Together” seminar series that have been attended by over 900 entrepreneurs and service providers who help entrepreneurs.

Joe has spent countless hours on the seminars. He is an active chairman of the committee. In addition to chairing the committee meetings, he has worked with the speakers on their presentations, reviewed drafts of materials from brochures to PowerPoint presentations, presented and served as moderator for panels.

Because of Joe’s knowledge of the securities area, he edits each issue of the MVF newsletter to make sure the summaries of the “2-Minute Forums” presentations made at MVF meetings do not cause problems from the companies.

During 2004, he has been actively involved on a pro bono in cases involving the Missouri Securities Commission relating to small businesses’ ability to raise capital. Joe has spent a large quantity of time this last year in meetings and preparing briefs because he believes the current policies practiced could have a very detrimental effect on entrepreneurs’ abilities to raise capital in Missouri. He has gotten several of the other MVF directors involved in trying to help get the current policies changed.

While Joe may have gained a client as a result of his volunteer activities, getting business has certainly not been his motivation. In fact, he has never gotten a client through his MVF efforts. It is very evident his efforts through MVF and the other organizations are because he truly wants to help entrepreneurs.

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